

# BGN/PCGN 1968 System, 2006 Revision

The Pashto alphabet uses a modified form of the Perso-Arabic script, and contains eight additional consonants not present in standard Arabic, as well as two additional vowel characters and an additional vowel point. Since both Pashto and Persian are official languages in Afghanistan, the same conversion values are used for all consonant characters which are common to the two languages. The eight additional Pashto consonant characters (shown below) are represented by Roman-script conversion values which suggest approximate pronunciations, and which, in six instances, bear sub-macrons.

	Pushto				Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent			
	ج	ج	ج	ج	j	جَلال آباد	Jalālābād
8.	چ	چ	چ	چ	ch	چاریکار	Chārīkār
9.	څ	څ	څ	څ	ts	څوکی	Tsawkêy
10.	ځ	ځ	ځ	ځ	Dz	ځډران	Dzadrān
11.	ښ	ښ	ښ	ښ	Dz	ځډران	Dzadrān
12.	ح	ح	ح	ح	ḥ	حَضْرَتِ إِمَام	Ḥazarat Imām
13.	خ	خ	خ	خ	kh	خوست	Khowst
14.	د			د	d	سپين بُولْدَک	Spīn Bowldak
15.				د	d	دند و پَتان	Dand wa Patān
16.	ذ			ذ	z	ذوَبی غر	Zowbay Ghar
17.	ر			ر	r	کَندهار	Kandahār
18.				ر	r	اندړ	Andar
19.	ز			ز	z	کُنْدُز	Kunduz
20.	ژ			ژ	zh	میرِ اسلم ژرَنده	Mīr Aslam Zhrandah
21.	و			و	zh	پیرین	Zhīyarayn
22.	س	سد	سد	س	s	دسَلیم کلی	Dê Salīm Kêlay
23.	ش	شد	شد	ش	sh	مَزَار شریف	Mazāri Sharif
24.	ښ	ښد	ښد	ښ	sh	کُښته کَلَا	Kshatah Kalā
25.	ص	صد	صد	ص	ṣ	قَیصَار	Qayṣār
26.	ض	ضد	ضد	ض	z	قَیض آباد	Fayzābād
27.	ط	ط	ط	ط	ṭ	قُطْسِي سُفلی	Quṭsi-yi Suflá
28.	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ẓ	ظَاهِر کَلَا	Zāhir Kalā
29.	ع	ع	ع	ع	‘	پُلِ عَلم	Pul-i ‘Alam
30.	غ	غ	غ	غ	gh	غَزَنی	Ghaznī
31.	ف	ف	ف	ف	f	مَزَار شریف	Mazāri Sharīf
32.	ق	ق	ق	ق	q	قُطْسِي سُفلی	Quṭsi-yi Suflá
33.	ک	ک	ک	ک	k	کَندهار	Kandahār
34.	گ	گ	گ	گ	g	گَرْدِز	Gardēz
35.	ی	ی	ی	ی	g	گِیزاب	Gīzāb
36.	ل	ل	ل	ل	l	کَابَل	Kābêl
37.	م	م	م	م	m	مَیمَنه	Maymanah
38.	ن	ن	ن	ن	n	خَان آباد	Khānābād

39.	ن	ن	ن	n	نني	Tanī
40.	و		و	w	وَآخان	Wākhān
41.	ه	ه	ه	h	هرات	Hirāt
42.	ی	ی	ی	y	يوسف خېل	Yūsuf Khēl
43.	ي	ي	ي	y	پکتيا	Paktyā

Table 2: Vowel Characters

	Pushto	Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
1.	ا	a	کابل	Kābēl
2.	آ	ā	هرات	Hirāt
3.	ي	i	هرات	Hirāt
4.	ی	ī	غزني	Ghaznī
5.	ي	ī	گيزاب	Gīzāb
6.	کي	ay	شکور کلی	Shakūr Kēlay
7.	ئ	ey		(deprecated)
8.	ې	ē	گردېز	Gardēz
9.	و	aw	خوکی	Tsawkēy
10.	او	āw	يکاولنگ	Yakāwlang
11.	و	ew		(deprecated)
12.	ـ	Ê	شلگر	Shêlgar
13.	ی	êy	سرگانی	Sarkānêy
14.	ئی	êy	گوئی	kawêy, you do <sup>4,10</sup>
15.	ُ	U	مرغاب	Murghāb
16.	و	Ū	بالا بلوک	Bālā Bulūk
17.	و	ow	لوگر	Lowgar
18.	وی	ūy	شاه جوی	Shāh Jūy
19.	ای	āy	دایمیرداد	Dāymīrdād
20.	آ	Ā	جلال آباد	Jalālābād
21.	ء	'	خدیږ پائیت	Khidīr-i Pā'in
22.	ـ	doubling of consonant letter	خانشین	Khānshīn
23.	ی	Á	قُطیبی سُفلای	Qutsī-yi Suflá

## NUMERALS

۰	۱	۲	۳	۴, ۴	۵, ۵	۶, ۶	۷	۸	۹
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Although Perso-Arabic script is written from right to left, numerical expressions, e.g. ۱۹۶۸ → 1968

are written from left to right.

## NOTES

1. Alēf (ا) should be Romanized as follows:
  - a. In word-initial position, alēf should not be Romanized.
  - b. In word-initial position, alēf with maddah (آ) should be Romanized ā. (See the vowel table.)
  - c. In word-medial and word-final position, alēf should be Romanized ā. (See the vowel table.)
  - d. In word-medial and word-final position in words of Arabic origin, alēf may serve as the bearer of hamzah, e.g. رأس - ra's (See note 6.)
2. The characters tsē (ث) and dzē (ذ) may be Romanized t̂s and d̂z when for special reasons it is desired that confusion be avoided between ت plus س and between د plus ذ, respectively.
3. Occasionally the character sequences كه, زه, سه, and گه occur. They may be romanized k•h, z•h, s•h, and g•h in order to differentiate these romanizations from the digraphs kh, zh, sh, and gh, which are used to represent the characters ش, ژ, خ, and غ.
4. Hamzah (ء) should be romanized as follows:
  - a. In word-initial position, it should not be romanized. In other positions, however, it should be romanized by an apostrophe, e.g. جزء → juz'.
  - b. Yē with hamzah (ئ) should be romanized êy, unless it represents the compound (izafah) morpheme, in which case it is romanized according to rule 10 below.
5. The division of words utilized in Pashto writing is followed in romanization, except that the elements –ābād, -khwā, -shahr, -zay and ullāh are always romanized as part of the preceding word, e.g. رَحْمَت آباد → Raḥmatābād and رَحْمَت الله Raḥmatullāh. Also, Persian derivational endings such as –vand and endings of Turkish origin such as –lar, –lī, –lū, –ī, –u, –si, and –su, should be written together with the preceding word.

6. The Pashto preposition د should be romanized dê in agreement with its pronunciation, despite the fact that it is sometimes pointed with zīr.
7. The word الله, meaning <God>, should always be romanized Allāh, except as specified in note 5.
8. In names of Arabic origin, the l of the definite article al is assimilated before the ‘sun letters’ t, ṣ, d, ḏ, r, z, s, sh, ṣ, ḏ, ṣ, and n. In romanization, the article should be separated from the name it precedes and should not be capitalized except at the beginning of a name, e.g. جَبَل السَّراج → Jabal as Sarāj.
9. In names of Arabic origin, a consonant character which would ordinarily be written with a shaddah (ّ) in Arabic should be romanized by writing the equivalent consonant letter twice, e.g., مُحَمَّد → Muḥammad.
10. In Pashto names which contain the Persian compound (izafah) morpheme, the izafah should be Romanized as –i if the preceding word ends with a consonant other than yeh or silent heh, and as –yi otherwise.
11. The character sequence خو, when followed by ا or ى or when pointed by the vowel character ُ, should be Romanized khw, although the w is either not pronounced, or only weakly pronounced.